

New visitor badging system being implemented

The Pine Bluff Arsenal Pass and Identification office is implementing a new badging system for visitors to PBA. According to Phil Fenters, lead security assistant, the new system will be up and running this month.

"The system is a new technology. The arsenal is one of the first to get it," said Fenters. "It will eliminate paperwork as well as alleviate congestion at the gates and also allow the guards to concentrate more on their jobs instead of deal with paperwork."

The badges, according to Fenters, will be for one-day or short-term visitors, such as contractors that need access for less than six months. "The new badges will have a photo and must be presented along with a driver's license or picture identification for gate access," he said.

During in processing, a photo will be taken with new digital cameras and will appear on the badge. The badge will then be placed in a protective sleeve. When the visitor returns the badge, the photo will be erased and the badge is ready for reuse. According to Fenters, the badges can be used approximately 250 to 300 times.

The interesting thing about this technology is that the badges can be reused. "We process over 30,000 people in this office in year," he said. "It will help alleviate many problems that we have. Right now it takes longer to process in someone than process him or her out. This new system will take care of tons of paperwork."